

Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council Item ID 72930 Agenda Number 75.

Meeting Date: 8/3/2017 Department: Development Services

Subject

Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance repealing and replacing Article 4 of City Code Chapter 25-12 to adopt the 2017 National Electrical Code and local amendments. (Suggested date and time: September 28, 2017, 4:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX.)

Amount and Source of Funding

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	December 11, 2014 - Council adopted the 2014 Electrical Code with local amendments.
For More Information:	Carl Thompson, 974-2887; Jose Roig, 974-9754
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	June 21, 2017 – Approved by the Electric Board on a 8-0 vote with Commissioner Weaver abstained and Commissioners Schmidt and Pereira absent.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The National Electrical Code provides a national standard for electrical installations associated with residential, commercial, and industrial buildings and structures. The proposed ordinance establishes amendments to address local installations, and to comply with the State Electrical Law and the State's adopted National Electrical Code. These changes in the local amendments can have a positive impact on housing affordability by reducing construction costs.

Significant changes for the Adoption of the 2017 National Electrical Code include:

- Sec. 110.14(D) New requirement of torqueing terminal connections to specifications.
- Sec. 110.16(B) Arc-Flash Hazard Warning Service. Equipment increased for non-dwelling unit service equipment rated 1200 amperes or more.
- Sec. 210.8 GFCI protection requirement includes crawl space receptacles.
- Sec. 210.12(C) AFCI protection in guest rooms and suites of hotels and motels.
- Sec. 210.64 Electrical Service Areas require a convenience receptacle within 25 feet of indoor electrical service

- equipment. (One and duplex family dwellings-Not required).
- Sec. 210.71 Meeting Rooms require receptacle outlets in commercial occupancies.
- Sec. 406.12 Tamper-Resistant Receptacles expanded requirement to include preschools and elementary education facilities, waiting rooms and any other places where children typically gather.

Highlights of the local amendments include:

- Several Sections that were more stringent than the National Electrical Code, have been deleted.
- Language has been added or deleted in several Sections to clarify the Code's intent.
- Romex installation limited for systems operating at a maximum of 150 volts to ground for One and two-family dwellings, Multifamily and Group R buildings of Types III, IV, and V construction.